GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
FINANCE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1617
ANSWERED ON:16.08.2013
ILLEGAL CULTIVATION OF OPIUM
Mitra Shri Somendra Nath

Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the reports about illegal cultivation of opium and ganja have come to the notice of the Government during the recent time;

(b) if so, the details thereof and action taken thereon for each of the last three years and current year till date; and

(c) the action taken by the Government to locate identify the illegal opium cultivators and punish them as per the laws?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI J. D. SEELAM)

(a) Yes, Madam

(b) Details of illicit opium and Ganja (Cannabis) crop destroyed during the last three years and the current year till date are as follows:

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013 (till date)
Destruction of Opium Crop (in Hac.)	3087.7	5813.5	1253.9	858.4
Destruction of Ganja (Cannabis) Crop (in Hac.)	558.0	1205.5	798.0	268.7

(c) The following steps have been taken/proposed to be taken by the Central Government locate identify the illegal opium cultivators and punish them as per the laws:

(i) Use of satellite imagery besides ground verification for detection and eradication of illicit poppy crop.

(ii) Narcotics Control Bureau has formulated an Action Plan in coordination with concerned agencies & the nodal officers of the concerned state governments for the identification and destruction of illicit opium cultivation. The action plan includes, inter-alia using satellite imagery to identify areas under illicit poppy cultivation, constitution of composite teams of district level officers for field verification and destruction of illicit poppy cultivation and initiation of penal action against persons found involved in illicit poppy cultivation.

(iii) Financial assistance being provided to eligible States for strengthening their narcotic units.

(iv) Cases have been booked against the illicit cultivation of the narcotic plants in the recent past under Narcotics Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act, 1985.